## CLAIMS

- An image description system comprising:
   a feature extracting unit extracting layout
   features from respective of frames of an image
   sequence; and
- a representative feature calculating unit calculating a representative layout feature representative of said image sequence from a group of said layout features extracted by said feature extracting unit.
- An image description system comprising:
   a feature extracting unit extracting layout
   features from respective of frames of an image
   sequence;
- a representative feature calculating unit calculating a representative layout feature representative of said image sequence from a group of said layout features extracted by said feature extracting unit; and
  - a representative layout feature storage unit storing said representative layout feature calculated by said representative feature calculating unit.

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3. An image description system comprising: a feature extracting unit extracting layout features from respective of frames of an image sequence;

a representative feature calculating unit calculating a representative layout feature representative of said image sequence from a group of said layout features extracted by said feature extracting unit;

a representative layout feature storage unit storing said representative layout feature calculated by said representative feature

10 calculating unit; and

a layout feature group storage unit storing said group of layout features calculated by said feature extracting unit.

The image description system according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein said representative feature calculating unit calculates average values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted by said feature extracting unit as a representative feature.

- 5. The image description system according to any one of claims 1 to 3,
- wherein said representative feature calculating unit rearranges values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted by said feature extracting unit in any of ascending order

and descending order, and calculates a median as a representative feature.

The image description system according to any
 one of claims 1 to 5,

wherein said layout feature is a color layout information.

The image description system according to any
 one of claims 1 to 5,

wherein said layout feature is an edge histogram information.

The image description system according to any
 one of claims 1 to 7,

wherein said representative feature is described based on a description scheme in which said representative feature is selectable from a plurality of features including at least

- 20 ColorLayout and EdgeHistogram, and a representative feature calculating method is selectable from a plurality of methods including at least Average and Median.
- 25 9. An image description software product executable on a computer realizing:

a feature extracting function for extracting layout features from respective of frames of an

image sequence; and

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a representative feature calculating function for calculating a layout feature representative of said image sequence from a group of said layout features extracted by said feature extracting function.

- 10. An image description method comprising:
- a feature extracting step for extracting
- 10 layout features from respective of frames of an image sequence; and
  - a representative feature calculating step for calculating a layout feature representative of said image sequence from a group of said layout features extracted in said feature extracting step.
- 11. An image identification system comprising: a representative layout feature storage unit storing a layout feature representative of an image 20 sequence as a representative layout feature; and

an image sequence selecting unit selecting an image sequence which resembles a query image sequence by comparing said representative layout feature of said query image sequence stored in said representative layout feature storage unit with said representative layout feature of a registered image sequence stored in said representative layout feature storage unit.

- 12. An image identification system comprising: a representative layout feature storage unit storing a layout feature representative of an image 5 sequence as a representative layout feature;
  - a feature extracting unit extracting layout features from respective of frames of a query image sequence;
- a representative feature calculating unit

  10 calculating a representative layout feature
  representative of said query image sequence from a
  group of said layout features extracted by said
  feature extracting unit; and
- an image sequence selecting unit selecting a

  15 sequence which resembles said query image sequence
  by comparing said representative layout feature
  calculated by said representative feature
  calculating unit with said representative layout
  feature stored in said representative layout

  20 feature storage unit.
- 13. An image identification system comprising: a representative layout feature storage unit storing a layout feature representative of an image 25 sequence as a representative layout feature;
  - a layout feature group storage unit storing layout features associated with respective of frames of said image sequence;

a feature extracting unit extracting layout features from respective of frames of a query image sequence;

a representative feature calculating unit

5 calculating a representative layout feature
representative of said query image sequence from a
group of said layout features extracted by said
feature extracting unit;

an image sequence selecting unit selecting an image sequence which resembles said query image sequence by comparing said representative layout feature calculated by said representative feature calculating unit with said representative layout feature stored in said representative layout

15 feature storage unit; and

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an identification unit matching said group of layout features extracted by said layout feature extracting unit against said layout features stored in said layout feature group as to said image sequence selected by said image sequence selecting unit.

- 14. The image identification system according to claim 12 or 13,
- wherein said representative feature calculating unit calculates average values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted by said feature extracting unit as a representative

feature.

- 15. The image identification system according to claim 12 or 13,
- wherein said representative feature calculating unit rearranges values of respective elements of a layout feature extracted by said feature extracting unit in any of ascending order or descending order, and calculates a median as a representative feature.
  - 16. The image identification system according to any one of claims 11 to 15,

wherein said layout feature is a color layout 15 information.

17. The image identification system according to any one of claims 11 to 16,

wherein said layout feature is an edge 20 histogram information.

18. The image identification system according to any one of claims 11 to 17,

wherein said representative feature is

25 described based on a description scheme in which
said representative feature is selectable from a
plurality of features including at least
ColorLayout and EdgeHistogram, and a representative

feature calculating method is selectable from a plurality of methods including at least Average and Median.

5 19. An image identification software product executable on a computer realizing:

a storage function for storing a layout feature representative of an image sequence as a representative layout feature in a storage function of said computer; and

a selection function for selecting an image sequence which resembles a query image sequence by comparing said representative layout feature of said query image sequence stored by said storage function with said representative layout feature of a registered image sequence stored by said storage function.

20. An image identification method comprising:
20 a storing step for storing a layout feature representative of an image sequence as a representative layout feature; and

an image sequence selecting step for selecting an image sequence which resembles a query image sequence by comparing said representative layout feature of said query image sequence stored in said storing step with said representative layout feature of a registered image sequence stored in

said storing step.

- 21. A description scheme for describing a feature of an image sequence,
- 5 wherein a representative feature is selectable from a plurality of features including at least ColorLayout and EdgeHistogram, and a representative feature calculating method is selectable from a plurality of methods including at 10 least Average and Median.